AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph on page 2, line 9 through page 3, line 5, and insert the following in place thereof:

If the MU decides to join a WLAN, it then proceeds by authentication/association handshakes. The authentication process is a mechanism for the MU to prove [[~~it's~~]] its identity[[ ]]. The IEEE 802.11 1997 WLAN specification supports two authentication services, Open System and Shared Key. These services function as low-level interfaces to negotiate access to the WLAN. Recent extensions of the IEEE 802.11 supports more enhanced authentication methods to improve security. Open System authentication is a default, null authentication procedure or algorithm. This procedure involves identity assertion, request for authentication, and an authentication result. Typically, an MU is already a network member, provides a password, and/or is pre-registered, in order to obtain access to the WLAN and its services via the authentication interface. Other authentication algorithms typically require MUs to know a secret key. The secret key may be delivered to an MU over a secure channel that may be protocol independent of the IEEE 802.11 standard (e.g., the IEEE 802.1x standard for instance).